

## Beef prices on the way up

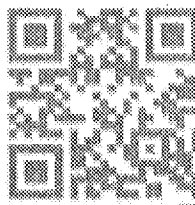
Low cattle supplies, strong foreign demand for U.S. beef help fuel price boost, 1B.

## Preserving pets after death growing popular as an option

Taxidermist Daniel Ross acknowledges it's a controversial topic, but says the owners "aren't weird, they just really love their pets." 3A.

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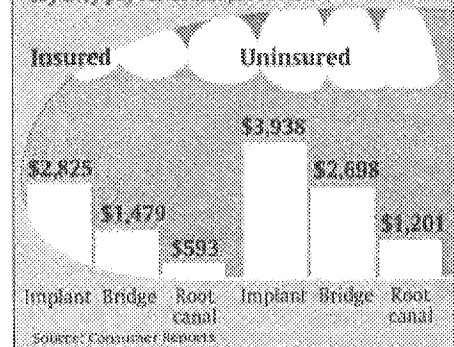
Crossword, Sudoku 5D  
Editorial/Forum 6-7A  
Marketplace Today 5D  
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## USA TODAY Snapshots®

### A bite into dental costs

Average out-of-pocket costs Americans say they pay for dental procedures:



By Bartel Huggins and Karl Celis, USA TODAY

cartoonish persona, self-promotion and a criminal record of pump-and-dump stock fraud.

The former computer hacker is the principle figure behind Megaupload, which U.S. prosecutors charge was a global empire that reaped a mega-fortune from illegal digital distribution of movies, songs and other copyright works.

In a New Zealand jail awaiting extradition to the USA on charges of racketeering, money-

Dotcom's flamboyant life of riches and creating one of the Web's most popular and controversial sites — a site that came into the government's cross-hairs two years ago after a complaint from the Motion Picture Association of America.

In the days after Dotcom's arrest, the case has triggered an angry response from the hacker

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

# Dealers creative in oxycodone bid

They try to open pill mills after Florida target.

By Donna Leinwand Leger  
USA TODAY

Drug dealers are finding ways around new laws that shut down "pill mills" dispensing powerful painkillers such as oxycodone.

In Florida, hundreds of people have opened pharmacies after being barred from dispensing narcotics directly from the state and forced patients to fill prescriptions at pharmacies. Some have moved their operations to states with more lenient regulations.

"Traffickers adapt to sit," says Mark Trouville, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's field offices in Florida. "We knew once we put pressure on the pill mills, the wrong people would start opening pharmacies."

Florida was the nation's center of prescription-painkiller distribution until the state enacted laws last year aimed at pill mills — clinics where doctors perform cursory examinations on people with dubious injuries and dispense addictive painkillers.

Since then, the number of Florida doctors among the nation's top 100 oxycodone-purchasing physicians has fallen to 13 from 90 in 2010, DEA Special Agent David Melenkevitz says.

Applications for non-chain pharmacies jumped about 80% in 2011 — to 381 — from a typical year before the crackdown, Trouville says.

"Traffickers adapt to situations," says Mark Trouville, Special Agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's field offices in Florida. "We knew once we put pressure on the pill mills, the wrong people would start opening pharmacies."

with the DEA and be given a license to dispense controlled substances. The DEA can deny an application if an applicant has a criminal record or a drug-related conviction. The DEA also can find a connection to a criminal activity that poses a health and safety risk. Pharmacy applicants must pass background checks. Applications in 2011, they feel the squeeze, he says.

Some pharmacies are opening in areas where people recruited to get prescriptions are not getting them. "They're not selling aspirin," Trouville says. "They're not selling anything but an empty pill bottle." Applicants turned down by the DEA can try their luck in Georgia, where the state and the DEA's Atlanta field division. She expects problem pharmacies to emerge in North Carolina and Tennessee as they are pushed out of Georgia.

At new non-chain drugstore applications, about 95% have some connection to Florida, he says.

"The people come completely out of left field without any pharmacy background and open a pharmacy in a sleazy strip mall right down the road from a pain clinic," Allen says. "You do a cursory background on them, and they're living in a doublewide in Pembroke Pines, Fla."

The DEA is working with the state to inspect pharmacies, says Barbara Heath of the DEA's Atlanta field division. She expects problem pharmacies to emerge in North Carolina and Tennessee as they are pushed out of Georgia.



"Year of the Woman"

since cember; Gingrich has fallen by 8.

Gingrich fares less well than Texas' Paul, who trails Obama by 7 points, 51-44%, former Pennsylvania senator Rick Warren, who also trails by 7 points, 51%-44%.

"Gingrich's efforts to win the nomination have set back his effort in the general election," says political scientist Jacobson of the University of Minnesota. "Gingrich's appeal to Tea Party conservatives has him out of the mainstream of American politics."

The Swing States survey focuses on the most competitive battleground states: Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The findings presumably reflect the attacks on Gingrich's temperament by Romney and other prominent Republicans. From Arizona Sen. John McCain to the majority leader Bob Dole, the speaker has drawn fierce fire since he took office in January 2011. The top of national polls.

In Florida, which holds its primary on Sunday, Romney led Gingrich in a Marist poll by 15 points, 42%-27%.

Gingrich blamed his fall on negativity by Romney and his allies. "His policy of carpet bombing his opponents," said on Fox News Sunday. "It has an effect on Romney, campaigning in Naples, Fla. Gingrich should 'look in the mirror' and his support has dropped."

Voters in both parties rate Romney higher than Gingrich on a series of positive traits. Nearly six in 10 say Romney has the leadership qualities a president needs; 42% say Gingrich has those qualities. Forty percent call Romney sincere and a say that of Gingrich.

Neither does particularly well whether they understand the problems Americans face in their daily lives: 44% say that applies to each.

The survey of 737 registered voters through Saturday has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.



# MIGRATION OF PAIN CLINICS



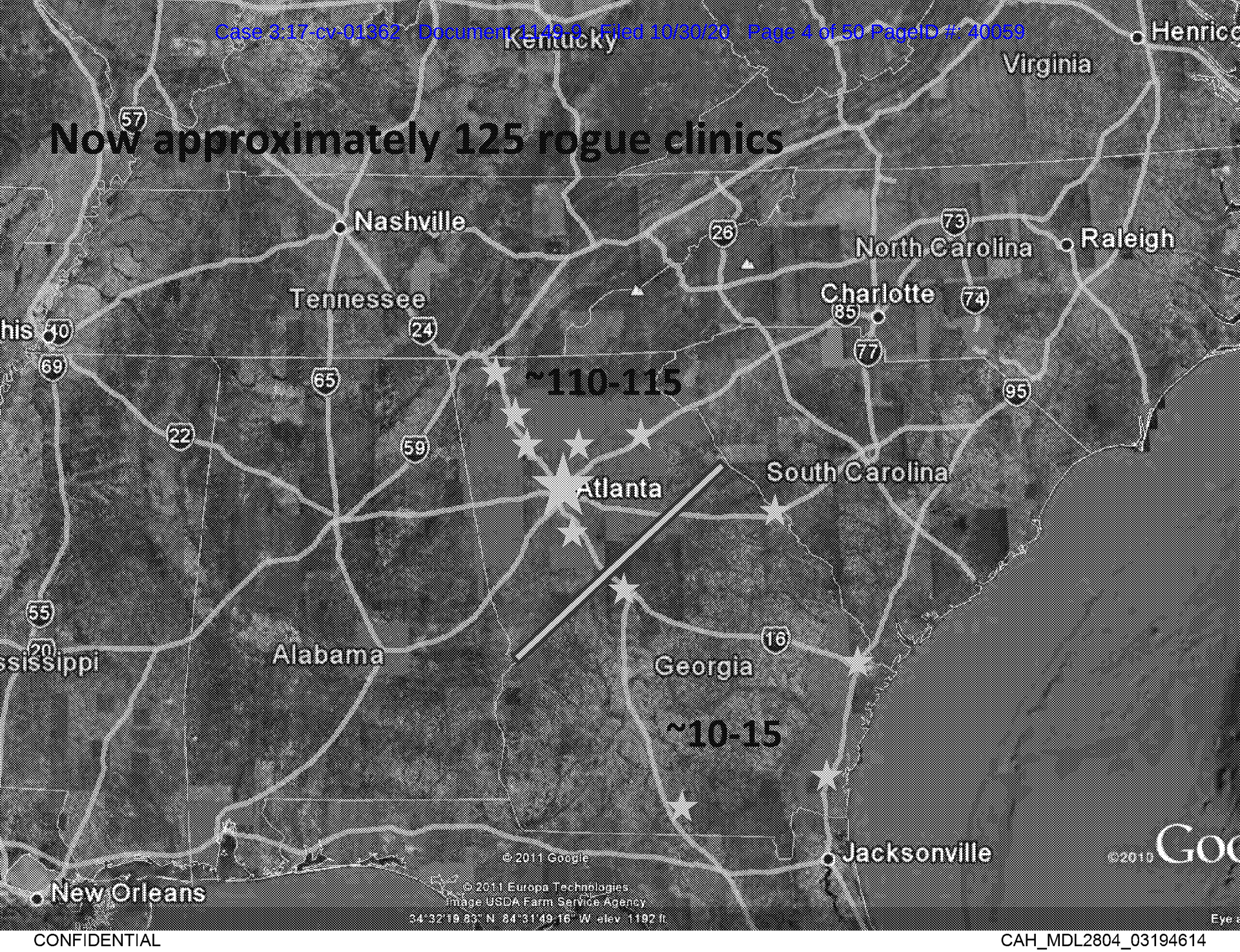


# Georgia Example: Traditional Pain Management Clinics

**Years prior to 2009-2010: 15-20 legitimate clinics**

- Almost all owned by Physicians
- Accept insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.
- Patients need appointments
- Follow pain management guidelines
- Patients get a complete physical workup & exam
- Use physical therapy, other treatment methods
- Prescribed drugs usually include non-narcotics





Now approximately 125 rogue clinics

~110-115

~10-15





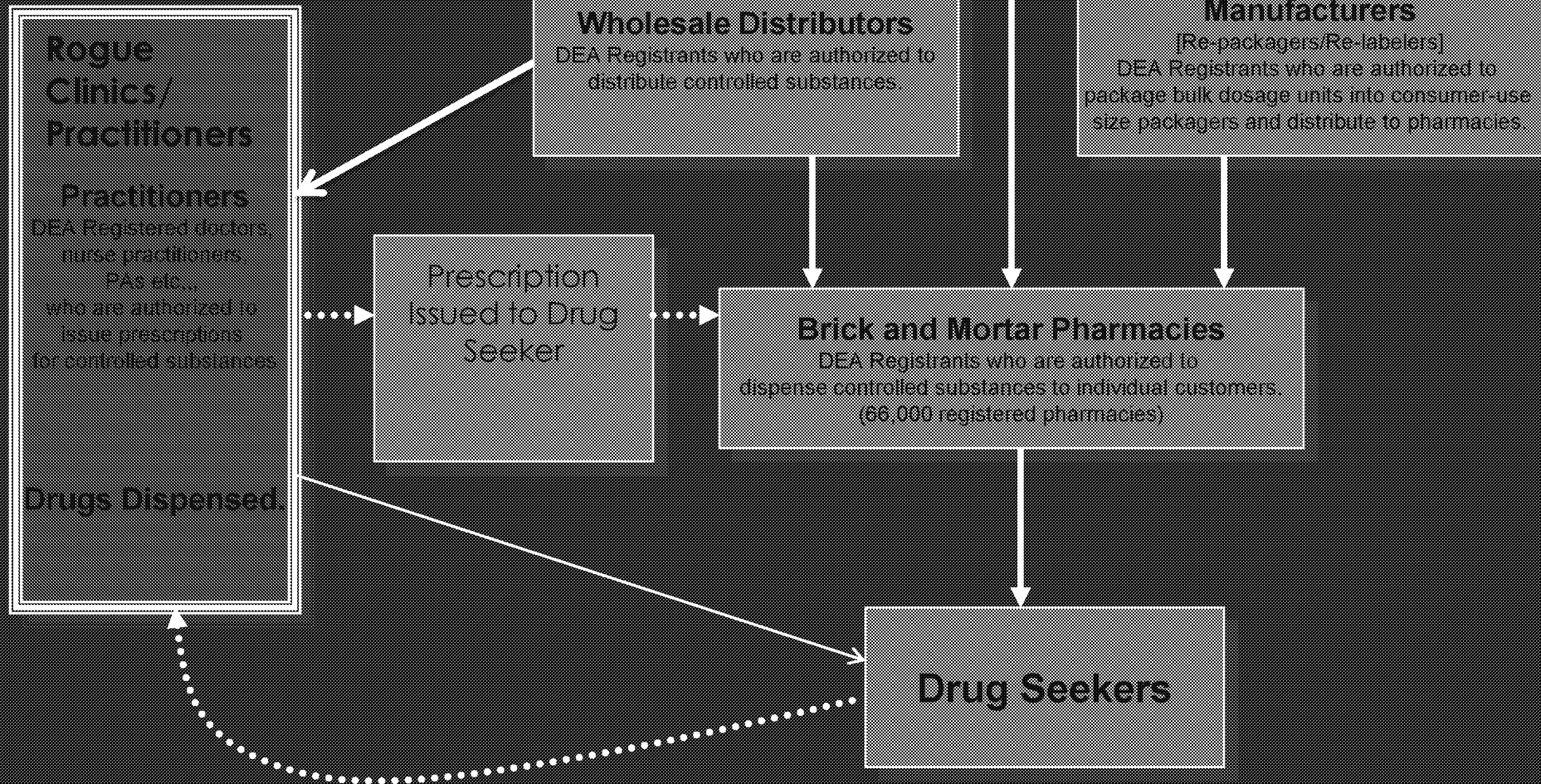
# Georgia Pain Pill Clinics

In 2012 – approximately 125 rogue clinics owned by non-physicians, and the owners:

- Are from another state
- Many are convicted felons
- Usually owned or operated a pain clinic in another state.
- Have ties to some type of organized crime
- If from Florida, left not because of the Florida PMP, but due to new Pain Clinic restrictions and no dispensing



# Rogue Pain Clinic/Pharmacy Scheme







# Cutting off the Source of Supply





Case 3:17-cv-01362 Document 1149-9 Filed 10/30/20 Page 8 of 50 PageID #: 40063

# First Prong: Increased Enforcement Efforts

- Currently 58 operational Tactical Diversion Squads (TDS) throughout the United States (66 total approved).
- These TDS enforcement groups incorporate the skill sets of DEA Special Agents, Diversion Investigators, other federal law enforcement, and state and local Task Force Officers.





## Second Prong: Renewed Focus on Regulatory Oversight

- Increased regulatory efforts throughout the U.S.  
(to include increases in frequency of inspections)
- Investigating/Inspecting all new and renewal pharmacy applications submitted in Florida.
- Investigating/Inspecting existing pharmacies registrations



# We will not arrest our way out of this problem!!!!

- Enforcement is just as important as....
- Prevention/Education
- Treatment

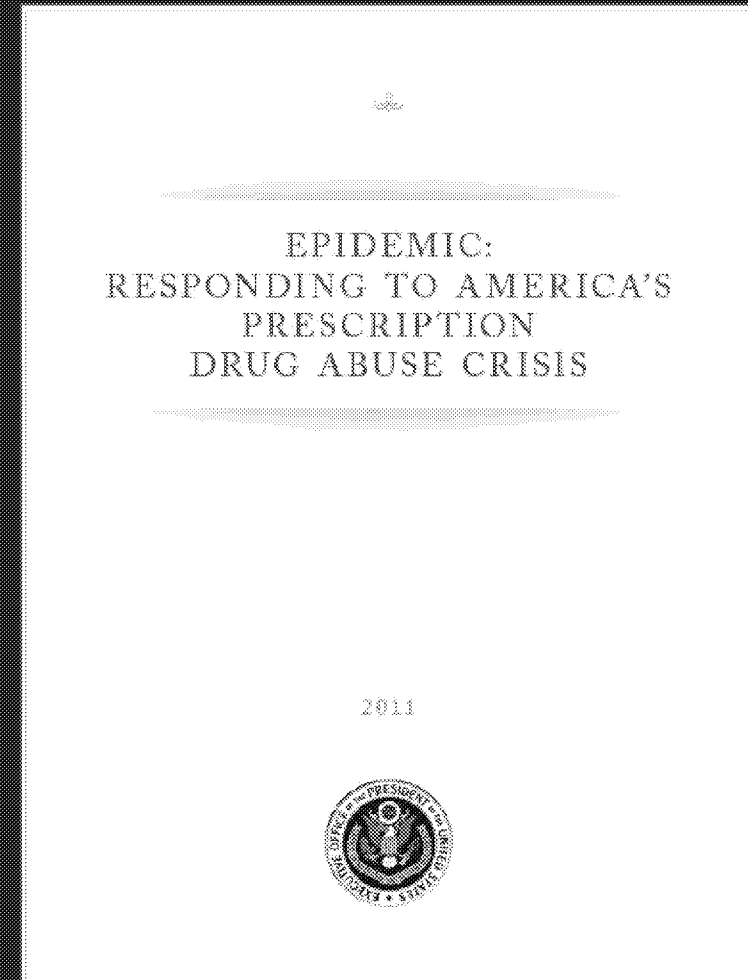
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# Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan

- Coordinated effort across the Federal government
- Four focus areas
  - 1) Education
  - 2) Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
  - 3) Proper Medication Disposal
  - 4) Enforcement



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# DEA Web-based Resources

[www.DEA.gov](http://www.DEA.gov)





# DEA Web-based Resources

www.JustThinkTwice.com







# DEA Web-based Resources

[www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)

The screenshot displays the homepage of the 'GetSmartAboutDrugs' website, which is a resource provided by the DEA for parents. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'getsmartaboutdrugs.com'. The website's header includes the DEA logo, the site title 'GetSmartAboutDrugs', and the subtitle 'A DEA Resource for Parents'. Navigation links for 'Home', 'Identify', 'Prevent', 'Help', 'Hot Topics', 'DEA in the Community', and 'Communities of Practice' are visible. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area features a large section titled 'COMMUNITIES of PRACTICE' with a sub-header 'The new Communities of Practice section includes three PowerPoint presentations about drug abuse and awareness and an online Train the Trainer module that provides presenters with techniques to effectively deliver the presentations'. Below this text is a 'Learn more' button with a play icon. To the right of the text is a graphic of a computer monitor displaying the website's interface. Further right are two smaller promotional boxes: one for 'DEA Publications' with a 'READ MORE' button, and another for 'Watch the Video' with a 'VIEW' button. At the bottom of the page, there are three columns of 'Latest News'. The first column, titled 'Latest News', includes two articles: 'Drug Court Offers Hope for the Future' (dated Jan 22, 2013) and 'ER Visits Tied to Energy Drinks Double Since 2007' (dated Jan 16, 2013). The second column, titled 'Voices', features 'Ima Perez's Story'. The third column, titled 'Inside DEA', provides a brief overview of the agency's mission and the impact of drug abuse on families.

Home Identify Prevent Help Hot Topics DEA in the Community Communities of Practice

The new Communities of Practice section includes three PowerPoint presentations about drug abuse and awareness and an online Train the Trainer module that provides presenters with techniques to effectively deliver the presentations.

Learn more

COMMUNITIES of PRACTICE

DEA Publications  
Download or request  
Drugs of Abuse and  
Prescription for Change  
READ MORE

Watch the Video  
View videos to learn how  
to keep your family safe  
including ways to avoid  
prescription drug abuse  
VIEW

**Latest News** See All News Stories

**Drug Court Offers Hope for the Future**  
Jan 22, 2013 The Columbia River Partnerships for Change, a nonprofit in Oregon, is seeing tremendous success with its three drug court programs: adult treatment, juvenile treatment, and families restored.

**ER Visits Tied to Energy Drinks Double Since 2007**  
Jan 16, 2013 Hospitals around the country have seen a gradual uptick in the number of emergency room visits involving energy drinks.

**Voices**

**Ima Perez's Story**

Ima was a 14 year old girl from Belmont, California who took an Ecstasy pill on April 23, 2004. She became sick immediately—vomiting and writhing in pain—yet her friends did not seek medical help for her. Instead, they...

**Inside DEA**

The men and women of DEA aren't just drug enforcement agents—they're parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. We've seen how drugs rob young people of their promise and dreams, and how entire families are affected by a child's drug abuse.

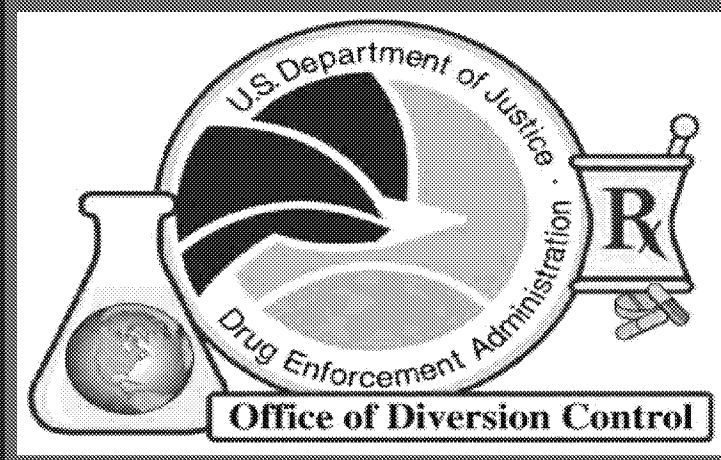




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# Thank You / Questions

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# Synthetic Drug Trafficking & Abuse Trends



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November 16-17, 2013  
Pharmacy Diversion Awareness Conference (PDAC)  
Louisville, KY

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Alan G. Santos, Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator,  
Operations Division, Office of Diversion Control,  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration



# Outline

## Designer Synthetic Drugs: Defining What They Are

- Synthetic Cannabinoids
- Synthetic Cathinones
- Other Synthetic Compounds

## Scope of the Problem

- Global Overview of Threat
- U.S. Overview & Experience

## Control Efforts: Using All the “Tools Available”

- State
- Federal
- International

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# Designer Drugs: A Tough Problem

Targeting emerging psychoactive designer synthetic drugs [i.e. synthetic cannabinoids (the synthetic marijuana compounds), synthetic cathinones (the synthetic stimulants), and other emerging synthetic compounds] is a priority for DEA.

But it's a tough public health & safety challenge!

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# Designer Synthetic Drugs: Defining What They Are

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# Designer Drugs Purported as “Legal” Highs

Designer Drugs have rapidly emerged as “legal” alternatives to internationally controlled drugs (such as marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, & MDMA) causing similar effects, with the potential to pose serious risks to public health and safety.

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## Where did they come from ?

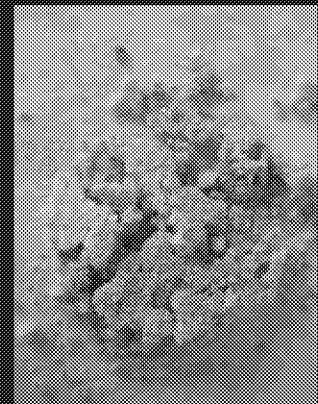
A highly regarded Medicinal Chemist Dr. F. Ivy Carroll and colleagues stated in a recent publication:

*Throughout the drug discovery process, pharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, research institutions, and other organizations publish their studies in scientific journals, books, and patents. This information exchange, which is essential to the legitimate scientific enterprise, can be, and is, used by clandestine chemists who duplicate the technical sophistication used by the research community to manufacture and market a seemingly endless variety of analogs of so-called designer drugs.*



## Where did they come from ?

- Substances rejected due to poor therapeutic potential
- Scientific literature excavated to identify substances
- No industrial or medical use for these substances
- Often characterized as being “research compounds” (the only research being undertaken is to determine their abuse potential for sale to consumer market)



11/27/2013



# Proliferation of Designer Drugs

- Increasingly popular among recreational drug users
- Internet sales
- Head shops/Smoke shops
- Promoted by discussion boards – self studies

**Bloomberg  
Businessweek**

**Fake Pot, Real Profits**

Armed with medical research and fueled by Chinese factories  
And YouTube, a band of outlaws has  
Created a dangerous multibillion-dollar industry

11/27/2013

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# Synthetic Cannabinoids

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# Synthetic Cannabinoids

- A “cannabinoid” is a class of chemical compounds in the marijuana plant that are structurally related.
- “Synthetic cannabinoids” are a large family of chemically unrelated structures functionally (biologically) similar to THC, the active principle of marijuana.
- They may have less, equivalent or more pharmacologic (psychoactive) activity than THC.



# Synthetic Cannabinoids

- Synthetic Cannabinoids are sold in retail stores, on the internet, and in “head shops” as “Herbal Incense” or “Potpourri”
- Smoked alone or as a component of herbal products
- Abusers report a potent cannabis-like effect



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## **Adverse Health Effects**

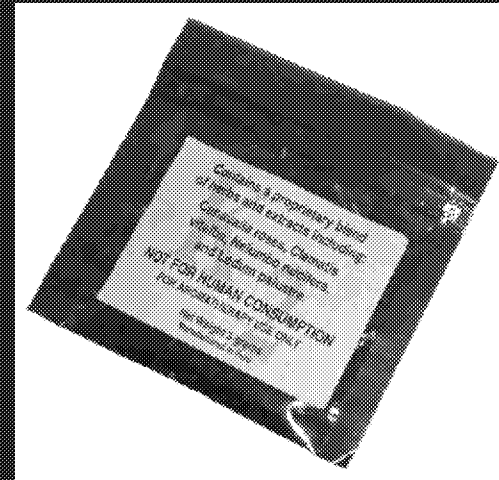
**Multiple deaths have been connected to the abuse of these substances alone and with other substances on-board.**

<b>Psychological</b>	<b>Anxiety, aggressive behavior, agitation, confusion, dysphoria, paranoia, agitation, irritation, panic attacks, intense hallucinations</b>
<b>Neurological</b>	<b>Seizures, loss of consciousness</b>
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<b>Tachycardia, hypertension, chest pain, cardiac ischemia</b>
<b>Metabolic</b>	<b>Hypokalemia, hyperglycemia</b>
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	<b>Nausea, vomiting</b>
<b>Autonomic</b>	<b>Fever, mydriasis</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>Conjunctivitis</b>



# Synthetic Cannabinoids

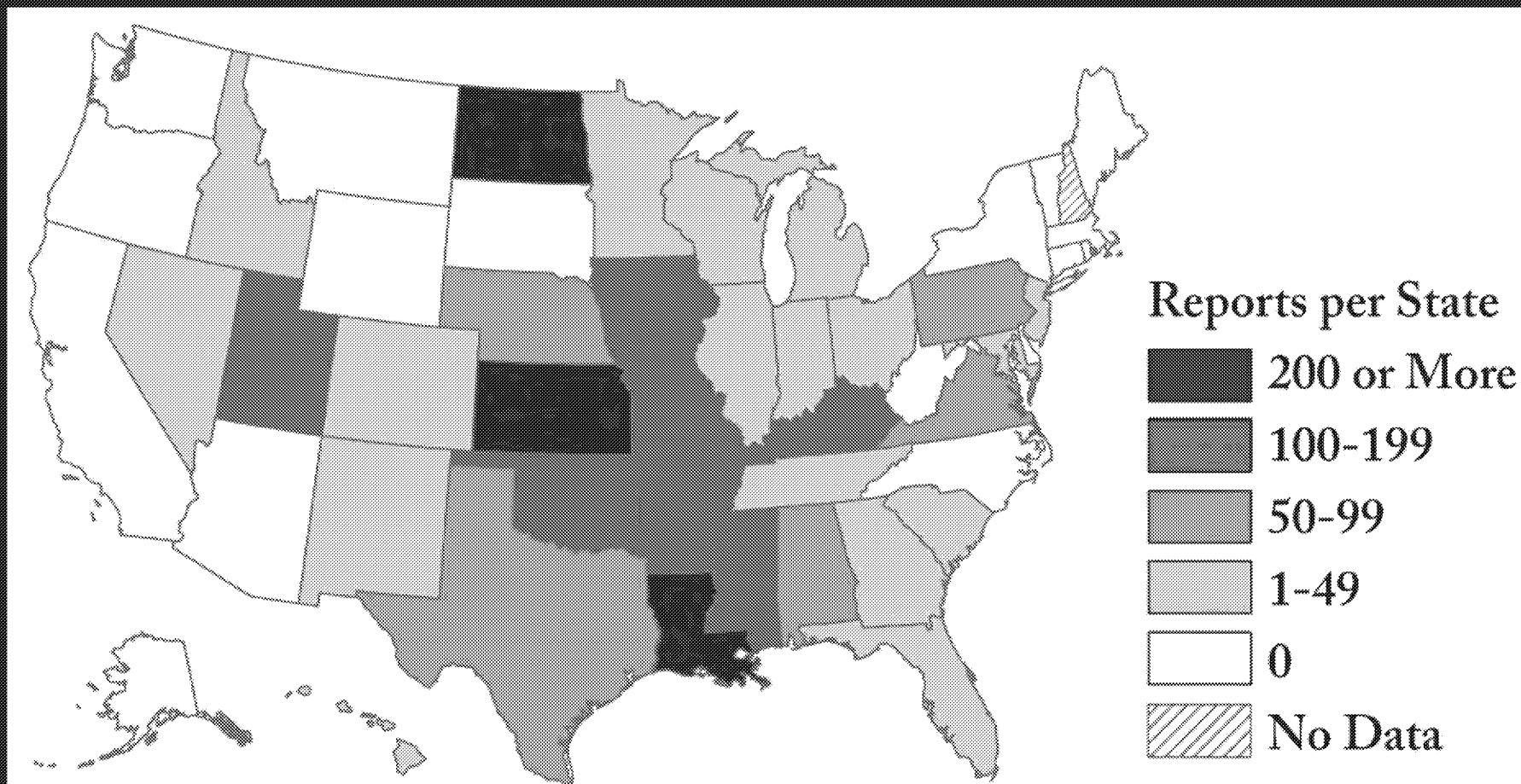
- Unregulated and unlicensed industry (many manufacturers)
- Full disclosure of ingredients typically not present
- Batch to batch variance (i.e., “Hot Spots”)



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# Synthetic Cannabinoids, by State, 2010



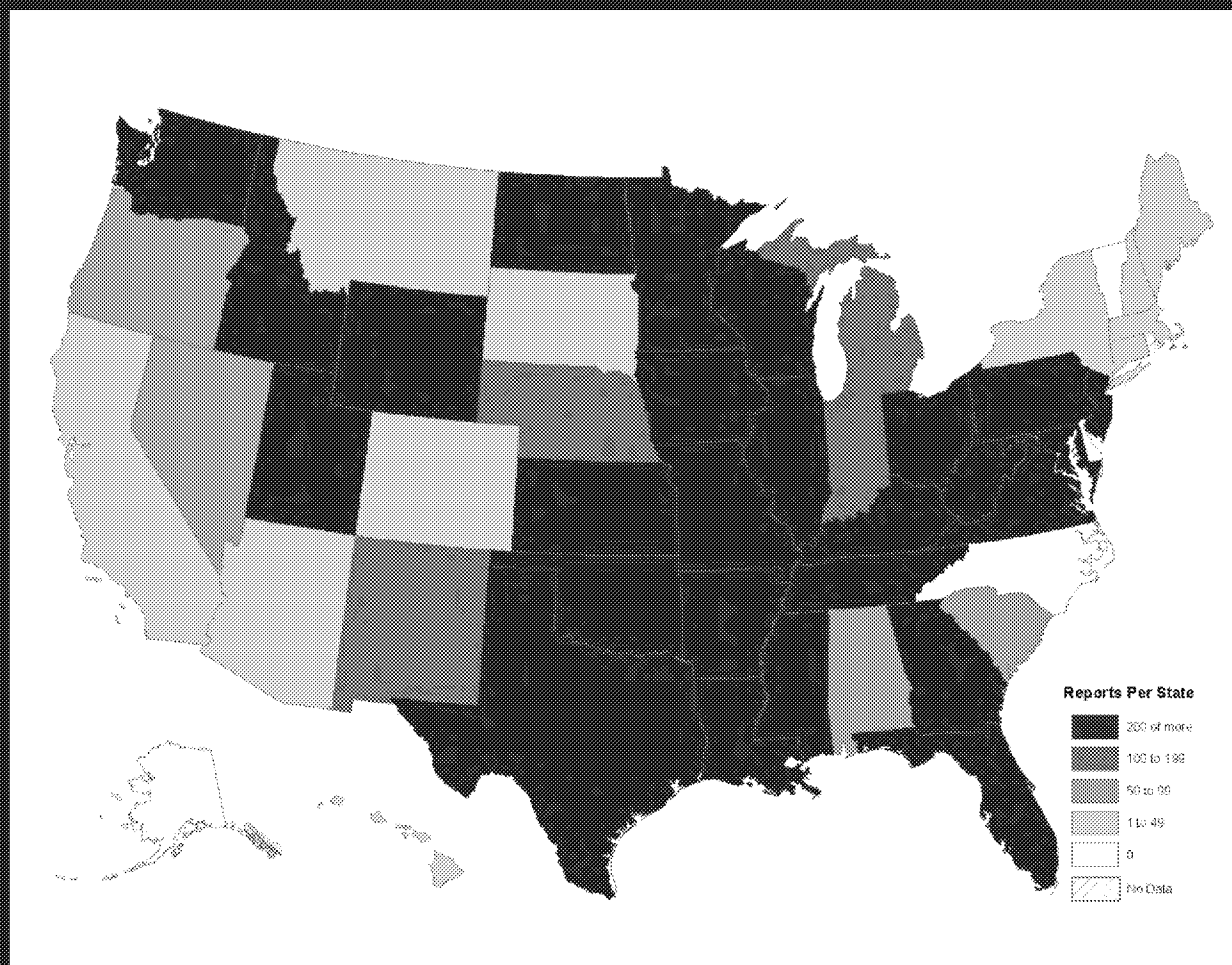
DEA Office of Diversion Control

Source: NFLIS





# Synthetic Cannabinoids, by State, 2011

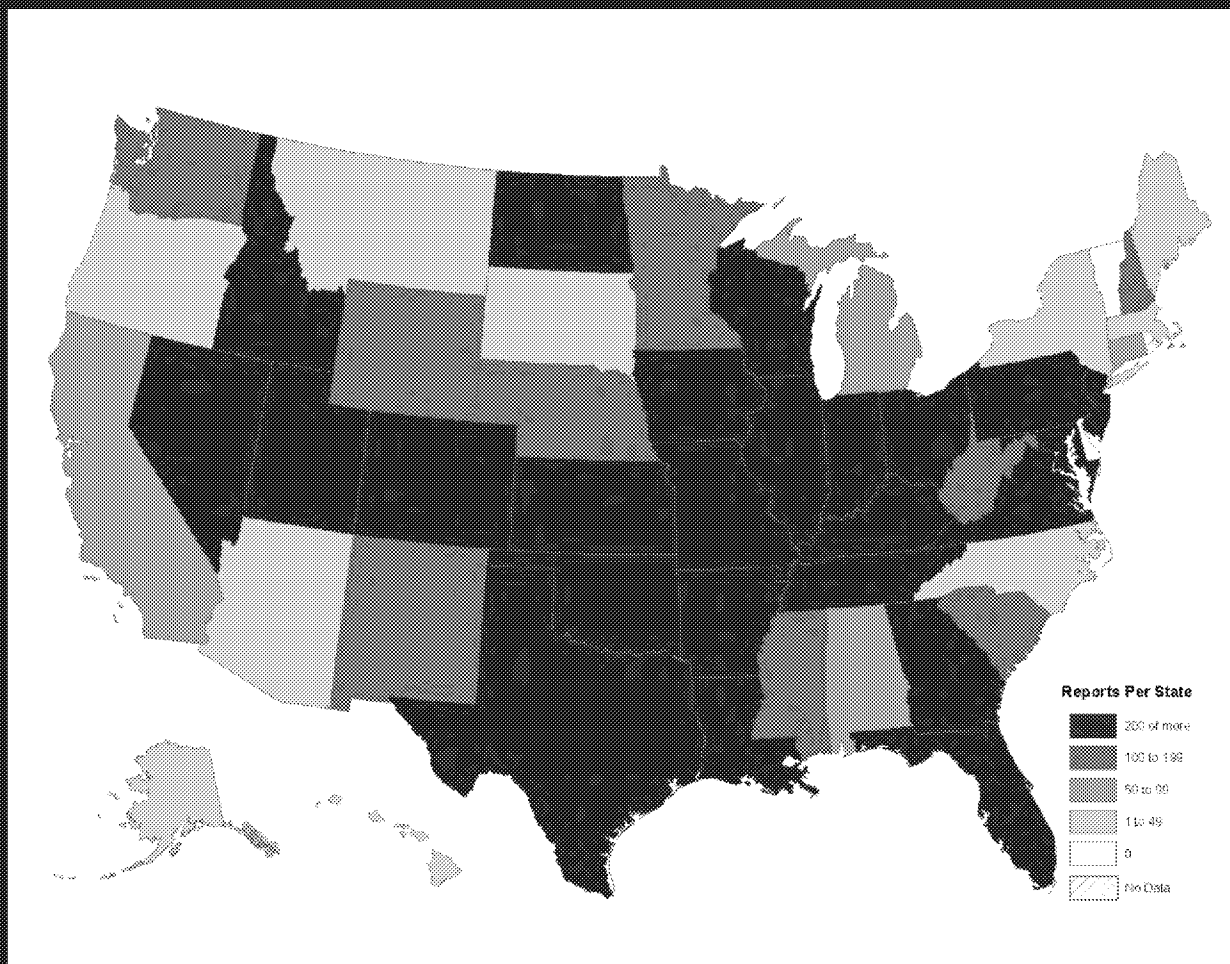


*DEA Office of Diversion Control*

Source: NFLIS



# Synthetic Cannabinoids, by State, 2012



*DEA Office of Diversion Control*

Source: NFLIS



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# Synthetic Cathinones

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# Synthetic Cathinones

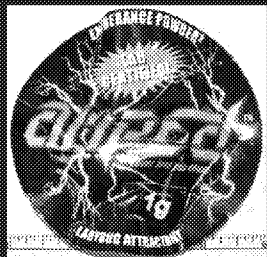
- Structurally and pharmacologically similar to amphetamine, Ecstasy (MDMA), cathinone, and other related substances.
- Are central nervous system (CNS) stimulants and have stimulant and psychoactive properties similar to schedule I and II amphetamine type stimulants.
- Synthetic cathinones are sold in retail stores, on the internet, and in “head shops” as “bath salts”, “plant food”, or “jewelry cleaner”

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## Adverse Health Effects

**Synthetic cathinone users commonly report cardiac, psychiatric, and neurological signs and symptoms with death.**



Cardiovascular	palpitations, tachycardia, chest pain, vasoconstriction, myocardial infarction
Psychological	Aggressive behavior, anger, anxiety, agitation, auditory and visual hallucinations, depression, dysphoria, empathy, euphoria, fatigue, formication, increased energy, concentration, panic attacks, paranoia, perceptual disorders, restlessness, self-mutilation, suicidal ideation
Neurological	Seizures, tremor, dizziness, memory loss, cerebral edema, headache, lightheadedness
Musculoskeletal	Arthralgia, extremity changes (coldness, discoloration, numbness, tingling), muscular tension, cramping
Gastrointestinal	Abdominal pain, anorexia, nausea, vomiting
Pulmonary	Shortness of breath
Ear Nose Throat	Dry mouth, nasal pain, tinnitus

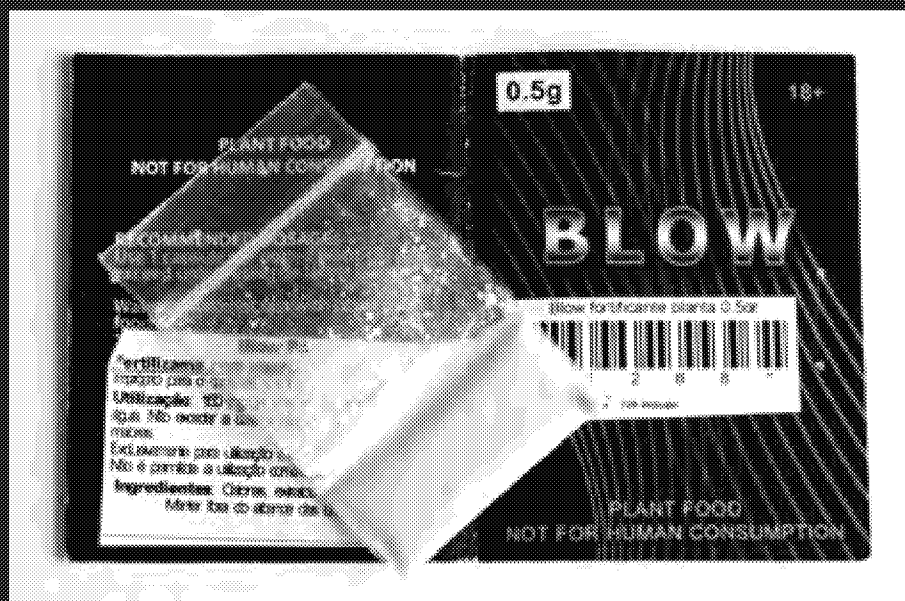
11/27/2013

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# Synthetic Cathinones

- Like the cannabinoids, unregulated and unlicensed industry (many manufacturers)
- Full disclosure of ingredients typically not present
- Significant batch to batch variances (i.e., “Hot Spots”)

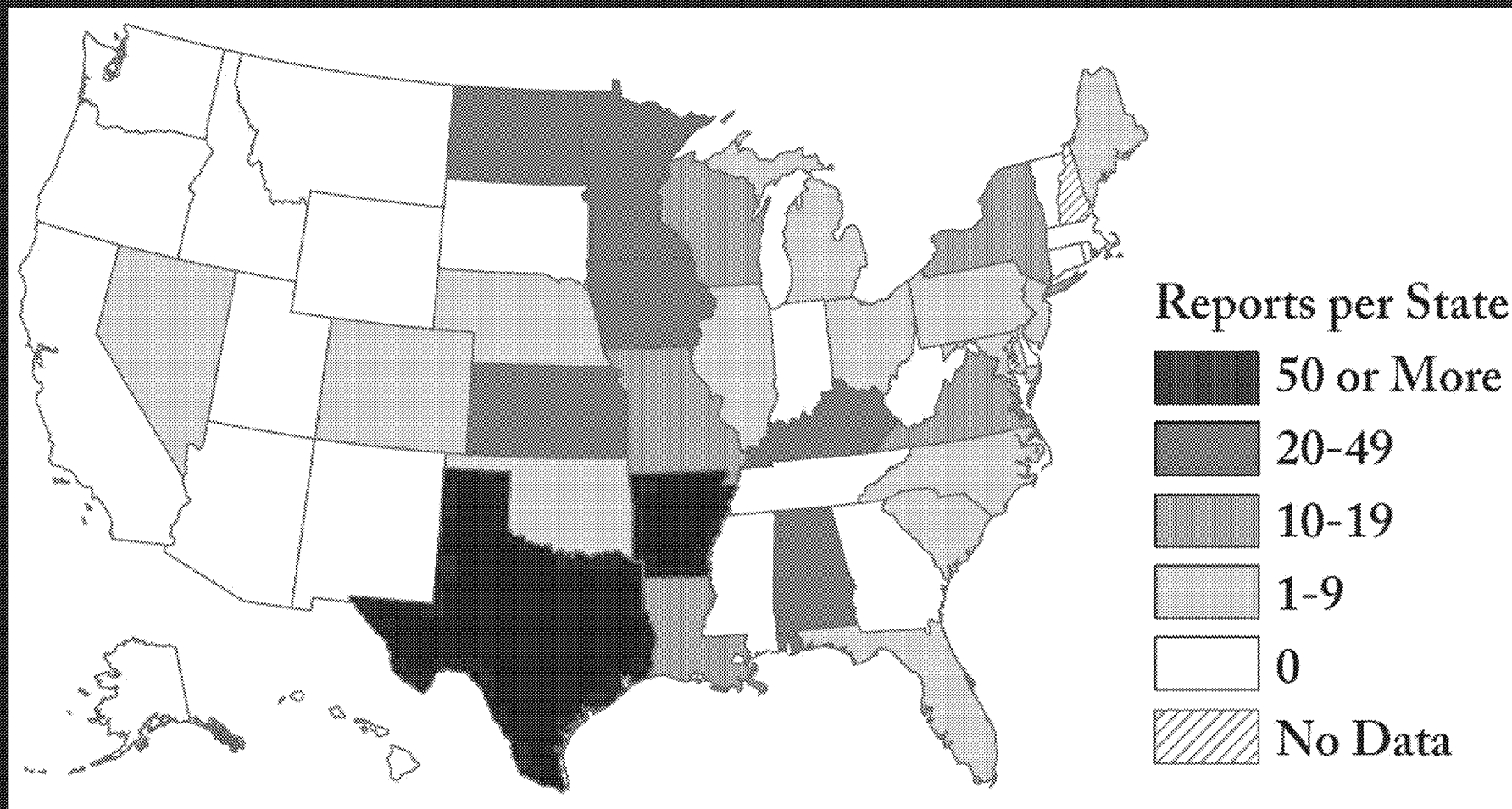


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# Synthetic Cathinones, by State, 2010

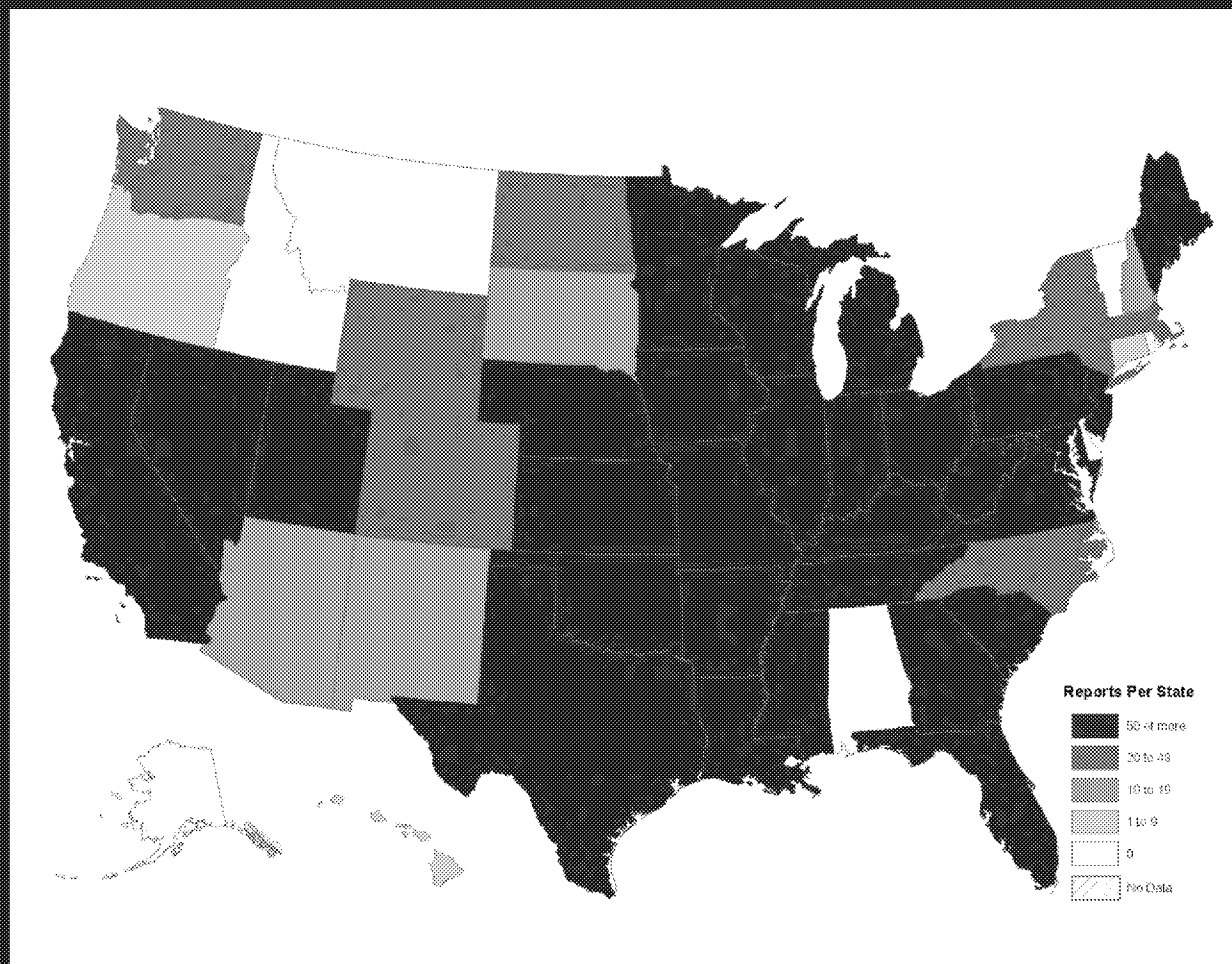


DEA Office of Diversion Control

Source: NFLIS



# Synthetic Cathinones, by State, 2011

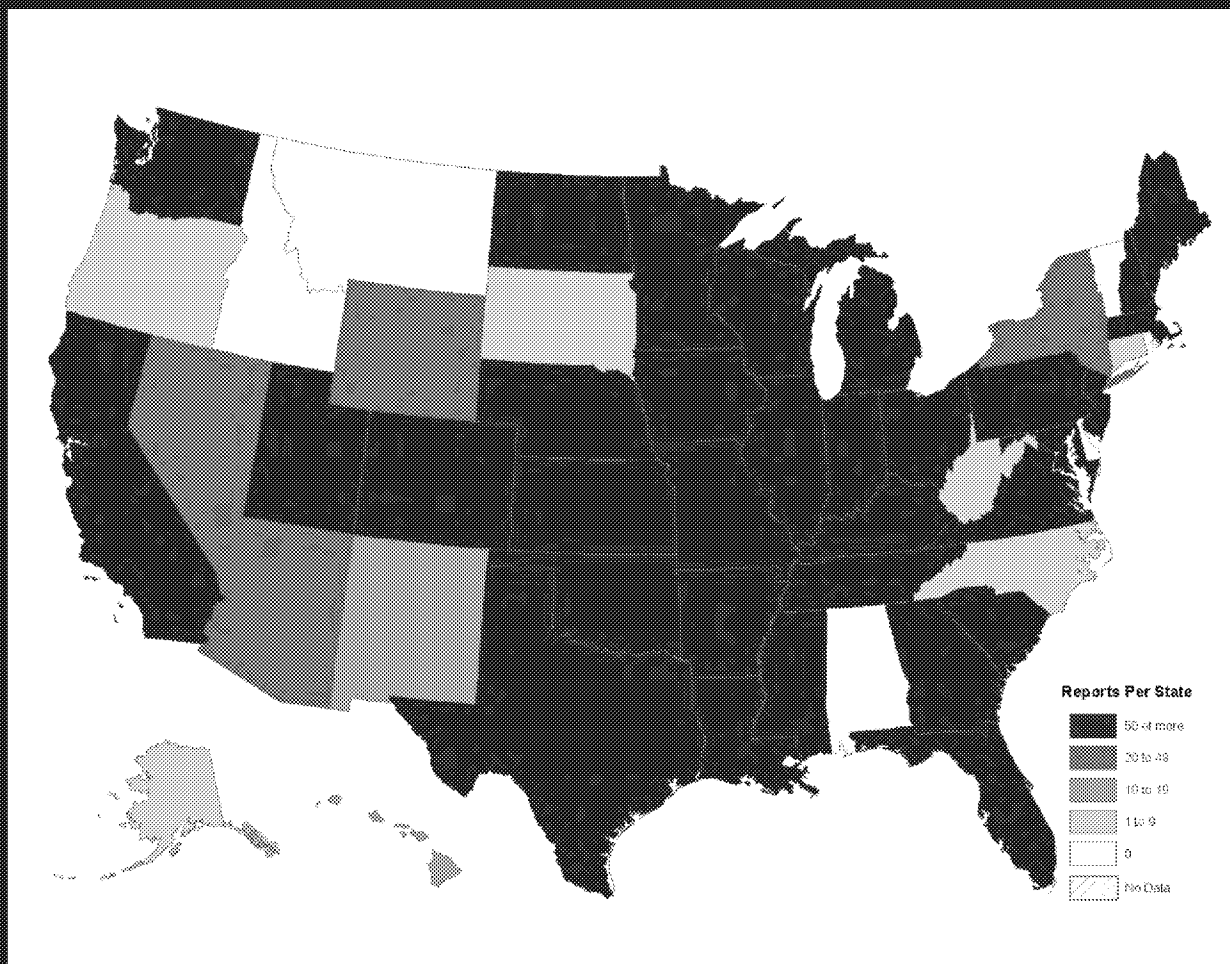


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Source: NFLIS



# Synthetic Cathinones, by State, 2012



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Source: NFLIS



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## Dance drug molly now linked to **FOURTH** overdose as police fear killer tainted batch has spread throughout East Coast

- Mary 'Shelley' Goldsmith, 19, died August 31 at one of Washington, DC's largest nightclubs
- While toxicology results are pending, the honors student's father admits Shelley was likely on 'molly,' a term for MDMA or ecstasy
- Olivia Rotondo, 20, and Jeffrey Russ, 23, died at New York City's Electric Zoo dance party after taking the drug
- Brittany Flannigan, 19, from New Hampshire, died August 28 after apparently overdosing on MDMA at a Boston concert

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# What is “Molly”?

- “Molly” – a synthetic designer drug
  - Originally - a street name for pure MDMA (Ecstasy)
  - Currently - a street name for a drug, that has the same effects as MDMA





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# Other Synthetic Compounds

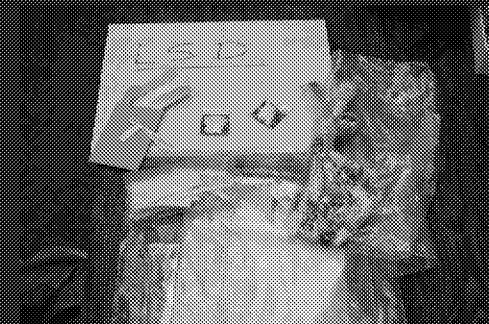
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# Phenethylamines

- Are a class of substances with documented psychoactive and stimulant effects / Includes the '2C series' compounds / Abused orally and encountered on "blotter paper" and in "dropper bottles" / Possibly mistaken for LSD / Linked to deaths



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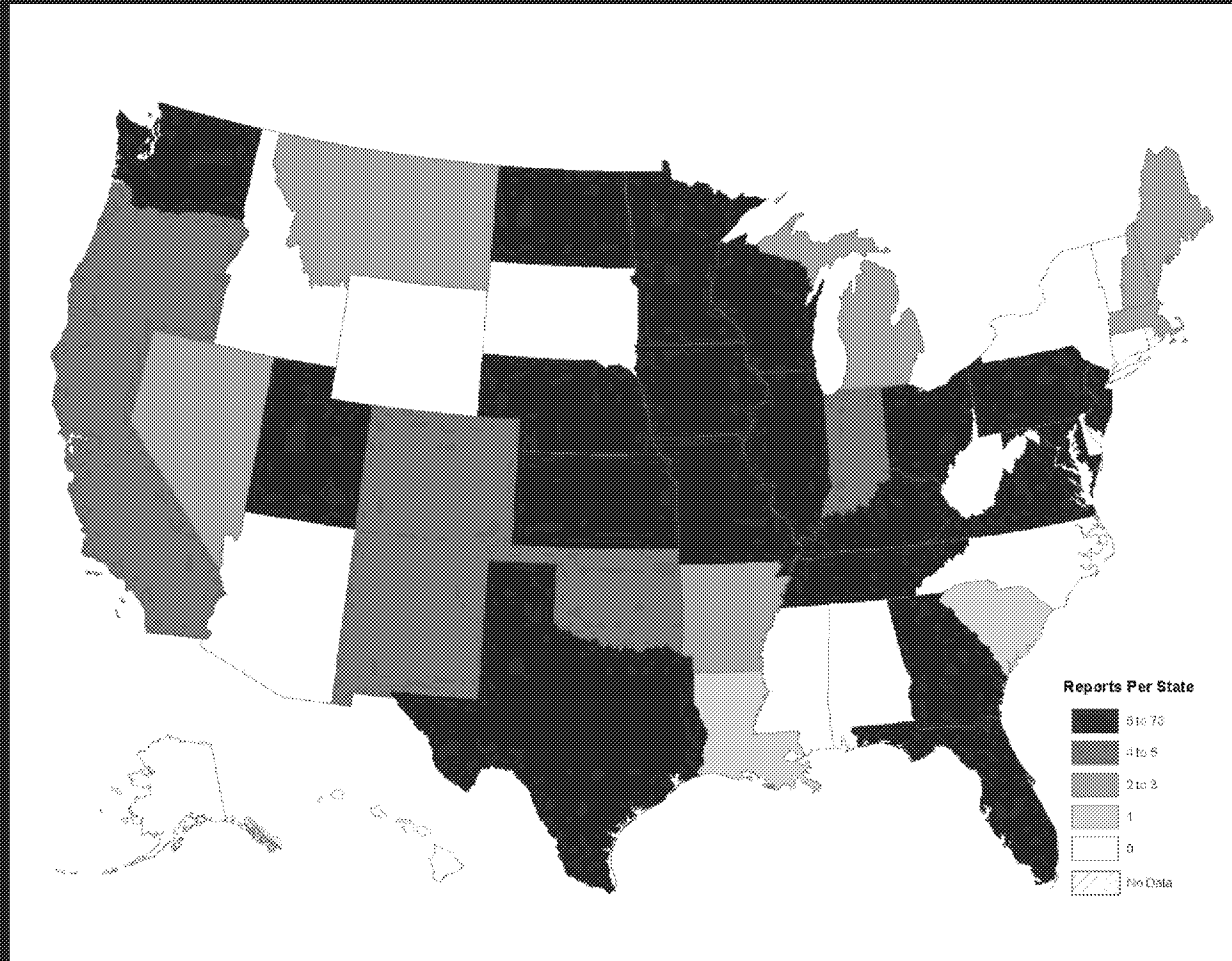
Source: NFLIS



Source: NFLIS



## 2C-Phenethylamine Reports, by State, 2012



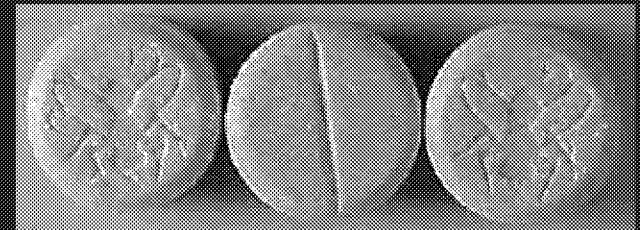
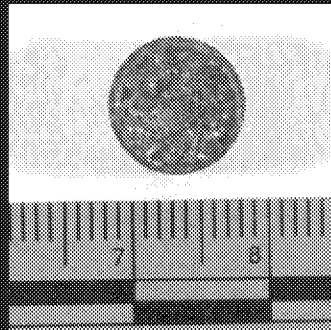
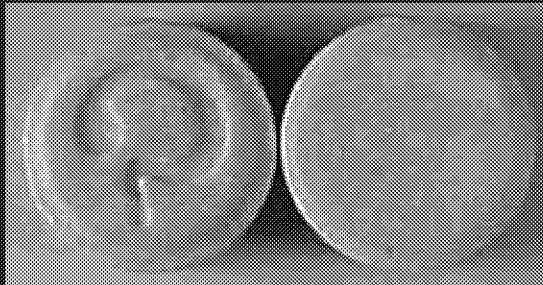
DEA Office of Diversion Control

Source: NFLIS



# Piperizines

- Have hallucinogenic properties as well as often being referred to as amphetamine-like / Tableted and frequently sold as 'ecstasy' (BZP-TFMPP combination abused to mimic the effects)

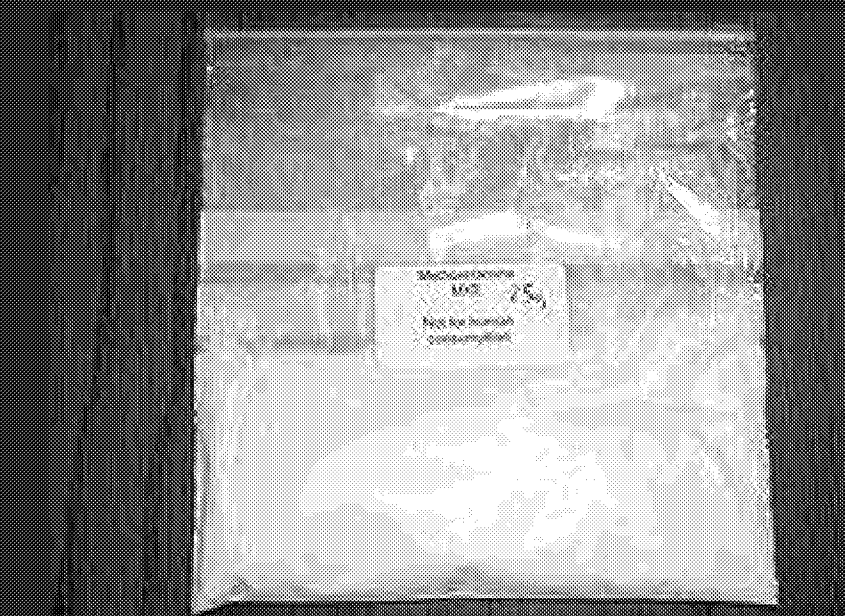
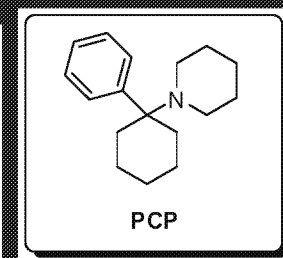
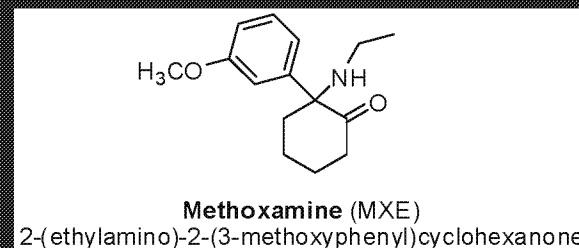


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# Methoxamine (MXE)

- Dissociative (mind altering effects) and depression of pain
- Effects similar to PCP
- Encountered on designer drug market
- International increase in ketamine abuse
- Deaths attributed to the substance



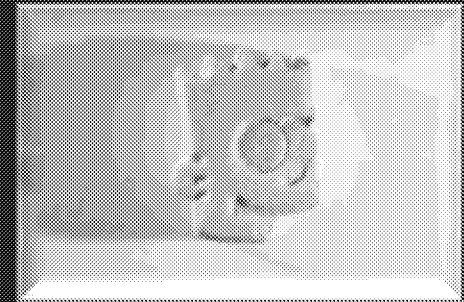
CBP Photo





# Problems with All Synthetic / Designer Drugs

- **Marketed to teens and young adults**
- **Easily attainable in retail environments and via the internet**
- **Unknown ingredient(s)**
- **No consistency in manufacturing process**
- **Not tested for human consumption / Unknown short & long term effects!!**
- **No known dosage – not FDA approved**
- **Synergistic effects likely when mixed with other drugs or alcohol**



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# Scope of the Problem

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